

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 21. (Cancelled)
22. (Previously presented) A method for file conversion comprising:
providing a main application program including a conversion engine;
providing a plug-in that writes data associated with a file of the main application program, the plug-in including a set of data format definitions that define the format of the data written by a plurality of versions of the plug-in;
providing an instance of data that was written by a previous version of the plug-in;
identifying the previous version of the plug-in;
accessing the data format definitions for a current version of the plug-in and the previous version of the plug-in;
inputting the data format definitions for the current version and the previous version of the plug-in to the conversion engine; and
converting the instance of data with said conversion engine to a format corresponding to the data format definition for the current version.
23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the data format definitions comprise an ordered set of field definitions.
24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the data format definitions comprise array fields.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein identifying the previous version of the plug-in comprises identifying a format number associated with the instance of data.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising accessing the data format definitions for an additional version of the plug-in and converting the instance of data first to a format corresponding to the data format definition for the additional version of the plug-in and then converting the instance[[s]] of data to a format corresponding to the data format definition for the current version.

27. (New) A computer program product for file conversion, tangibly stored on a computer-readable medium, comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:

receive in a main application program an instance of data that was written by a previous version of a plug-in that writes data associated with a file of the main application program, the plug-in including a set of data format definitions that define the format of the data written by a plurality of versions of the plug-in;

identify the previous version of the plug-in;

access the data format definitions for a current version of the plug-in and the previous version of the plug-in;

input the data format definitions for the current version and the previous version of the plug-in to the conversion engine; and

convert the instance of data with said conversion engine to a format corresponding to the data format definition for the current version.

28. (New) The computer program product of claim 27, wherein the data format definitions comprise an ordered set of field definitions.

29. (New) The computer program product of claim 27, wherein the data format definitions comprise array fields.

30. (New) The computer program product of claim 27, wherein identifying the previous version of the plug-in comprises identifying a format number associated with the instance of data.

31. (New) The computer program product of claim 27, further comprising instructions operable to cause the programmable processor to access the data format definitions for an additional version of the plug-in and convert the instance of data to a format corresponding to the data format definition for the additional version of the plug-in and then convert the instance of data to a format corresponding to the format definition for the current version.